To improve the functioning of primary health care institutions, Government has initiated a number of innovative programmes:—

- Under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana, funds are being released to States and UTs for strengthening the primary health care infrastructure, procurement of drugs and essential consumables, and towards contingencies for travel cost for ANMs and repair of equipments and furniture.
- Area Development Projects are being implemented with the financial assistance from the World Bank and other donor agencies that provision for construction of buildings for health sub-centres, primary health centres, community health centres, staff quarters, training institutes and for furniture and equipment.
- Schemes for major and minor Civil Works under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme, makes funds available to State Governments for the construction/repair/maintenance of operation theatres, labour rooms, and for provision/upgradation of water and electricity supply in the public health facilities.
- Efforts are also being made to increase the outreach in rural areas through Swasthya Melas and Reproductive and Child Health Camps etc.
- In service training to ANM's and other staff in skill improvement is being provided under Reproductive and Child Health Programme.
- Government is providing funds to State Governments for contractual hiring of essential staff like Lady Doctors/Additional ANMs/ Anaesthetists/Gynaecologists etc. wherever deemed necessary.
- Medicine and equipments are also being provided under RCH Programme.

Vacancies of senior and junior residents in AIIMS and Safdarjung Hospital

769. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the *modus operandi* of filling of vacancies of senior and junior residents on regular basis in AIIMS and Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi;

(b) the details of vacancies of senior residents and junior residents in department/speciality in AIIMS and Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi as on 1st August, 2001 and 1st October, 2001; and

(c) the details of vacancies since filled up as also those remaining unfilled, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) In AIIMS, the mode of selection for filling-up the vacancies of Junior Residents (Post graduate seats) is on the basis of merit. The PG Entrance Exam is conducted by AIIMS at all India Level twice in a year for January/July Session. The vacancies of Senior Residents are notified on the notice boards of various medical colleges and major Government Hospitals in Delhi. Posts of Senior and Junior Residents in Safdarjung Hospital are advertised in the Employment News for regular appointment once in a year.

(b) and (c) The vacancy position of Senior and Junior Residents in AIIMS and Safdarjung Hospital are as under:—

	AIIMS	SAFDARJUNG
Ist August, 2001		
Senior Residents	4	31
Junior Residents	—	27
Ist October, 2001		
Senior Residents	6	23
Junior Residents	—	49

The post of Senior/Junior Residents in Safdarjung is filled on ad-hoc basis pending regular appointment. In AIIMS efforts are on to fill the vacant posts.

Steps taken to tackle biological/chemical attack

†770. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether doctors in Government hospitals are ill-equipped for combating the situation arising out of biological or chemical attack in the country especially in the Capital;

(b) if so, whether Government have sent the doctors for training to the Gwalior based military center to combat the situation; and

(c) if so, what other concrete steps Government have taken to have adequate control over the situation?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.